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TELLER URGES DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH-TECH WEAPONS
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WICHITA, KANSAS

Dr. Edward Teller, the chief designer of the hydrogen bomb, Saturday urged American development of high-technology weapons and said a nuclear freeze would endanger U.S. research efforts.

Teller also called for the Central Intelligence Agency to release information about the Soviet civil defense system.

The nuclear physicist, currently senior research fellow at the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford University, addressed about 250 members of the American Civil Defense Association meeting in Wichita for their annual convention.

"Not only is defense possible," Teller said, "but if you are ingenious enough about it and do not limit yourself to obvious methods like the neutron bomb ... if you go a few steps beyond that, you get really promising systems.

"What are they? I cannot tell you a single word about them. It's completely classified on a high level," he said.

High technology systems advocated by Teller are sometimes called "High Frontier" systems and include three levels of defense, according to Walter Murphey, editor of the Civil Defense Journal and a participant in the convention.

The first level includes space stations circling the Soviet Union armed with heat-seeking weapons to detect the hot booster stages of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), laser and particle beam weapons situated further out in space to destroy ICBMs and advanced antiballistics missiles situated near target sites in the United States, Murphey said.

Teller also said the CIA should reveal the intelligence it has gathered about the advanced state of civil defense in the Soviet Union. In the event of a nuclear attack, Teller said a far greater percentage of the Soviet Union's population would survive than would the population of the United States. Defense shelters for top-level officials surrounding Moscow provide evidence of the Soviet Union's emphasis on civil defense, Teller said. If the CIA released information about Soviet civil defense, he said, arguments against defense systems in the United States would be weakened.

Teller also said a nuclear freeze would hamstring efforts by American researchers to develop new high-technology defense systems.

"The freeze idea has guided our foreign policy in the last quarter of a century," Teller said. "If you believe that in this quarter of a century our security has improved, vote for the freeze. If you believe that today we are in greater trouble than we have been since 1957, vote against the freeze."